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retina were opaque, images of all objects presented to the eye would be formed on it, as they are formed on the receiver of a camera obscura. From the retina these impressions are conveyed, by the optic nerve, to the brain, where the mind takes notice of them. 2dly. The middle coat of the eye, external to the retina, and concentric with it. This coat contains the principal parts of the blood destined for the nutrition of the eye. It is of a dark colour, and is rendered still darker by a pigment with which it is loaded. This coat, loaded with its pigment, is seen through the transparent retina, when we look from the interior of the eye. 3dly. The external coat, which invests the two preceding, and is concentric with them. This coat gives support to the more delicate parts within, and, at the same time, protects them from external injury. This external coat forms four-fifths of the exterior envelope of the ball, the remaining one-fifth being formed by the sight of the eye, which is that transparent part which is in the centre of the *white*, as the visible part of the exterior coat is commonly called.

The quantity of light admitted through the sight to the interior of the eye is regulated by a curtain placed behind the sight, and having, in its centre, a circular aperture, called the pupil. This curtain is called the iris: it is variously coloured in different persons; and, according to its color, the eyes are denominated black, or blue, or hazel, or grey, &c. In a weak light the curtain is drawn in on every side, until it is reduced to a mere ring, leaving the pupil very large, so as to admit as many rays as possible to the interior of the eye. On the contrary, when the light is strong, the curtain falls on every side, until the papillary aperture is contracted almost to a point, and thus the retina is effectually protected from the glare of light.

In order that objects presented to the eye should be perceived by the mind, it is necessary that the rays of light, emanating from the objects, should be brought to a focus at the retina. This is effected by the *humors*, which are situated in the interior of the ball, and are so placed that the rays of light must pass through them, in their course from the sight to the retina. The principal of these is the crystalline humor, so styled from its beautiful transparency. By anatomists it is generally called "the lens," because it exactly resembles, in shape, a convex glass lens. When this "lens," which should be crystalline and transparent, becomes opaque, it constitutes the disease called cataract; the rays of light are no longer able to reach the retina, and blindness, more or less perfect, according to the greater or less capacity of the lens, is the result. This disease is cured by extracting from the eye the opaque lens. The deficiency occasioned by the absence of the lens is supplied by means of spectacles, with very convex glasses; these glasses enable the individual who had been rendered blind by the cataract, to enjoy a very useful degree of vision.

In young persons the powers of the humours are apt to be too great, and the rays of light are brought to a focus before they arrive at the retina. In this consists shortsightedness. It is remedied by the use of concave glasses, which giving a greater divergence to the rays, before they enter the eye, the great powers of the humours barely suffice to bring the very divergent rays to a focus at the retina, and thus perfect vision is acquired.

In old age, on the contrary, the powers of the humours are not sufficient to bring the rays to a focus at the retina; convex glasses are, therefore, necessary to assist the humours. By means of this kind of glasses old persons have their failing sight restored, and are enabled to see accurately many years after the decay of the powers of the humours.

From this explanation you will understand why the eye of young persons require concave, and those of old persons convex, glasses.

[To be continued.]

Who are they who most easily gain and lose friends? Four sorts of people; the rich, the young, the powerful, and the favourites of the rich and powerful; but when the rich become poor, the young old, the powerful reduced to privacy, and the favourite disgraced, they are left like a whale on the shore.

#### MOVABLE MELON BEDS.

In the valley of Cashmeer there are movable beds of melons, which, in some degree, may be considered in the light of islands. The ingenious people of that valley spread a thick mat on the surface of their lake, and sprinkle it over with soil: it soon acquires a consistency, from the grass growing upon it. On the following year they sow melons and cucumbers, and reap the harvest from a boat; and thus turn to account the very surface of the lake in their rich country.

Montserrat had Irish colonists for its early settlers, and the Negroes to this day have the Connaught brogue curiously and ludicrously engrafted on the African jargon. It is said that a Connaughtman, on arriving at Montserrat, was, to his astonishment, hailed in vernacular Irish by a negro from one of the first boats that came alongside—"Thunder and turf," exclaimed Pat, "how long have you been here?"—"Three months," answered Quashy—"Three months! and so black already!! *Ha-nun a diaoul*," says Pat, thinking Quashy a ci-devant countryman, "I'll not stay among ye"; and in a few hours the Connaughtman was on his return, with a white skin, to the emerald isle."

#### LINES

WRITTEN ON FINDING A ROSE LYING WITHERED ON A WALK IN THE GARDEN OF A FRIEND NEAR DUBLIN.

Sweet rose, what hand could blight thee,  
And crush thy blooming pride;  
Sweet rose, what hand could slight thee,  
And throw thee thus aside?

Sweet rose, who could bereave thee,  
Of all thy freshness gay;  
And then, sweet rose, could leave thee,  
To wither here away?

The dew in glittering splendour,  
Still clusters o'er thy breast;  
The breeze still sweet and tender,  
Doth woo thee to thy rest.

For it is evening hour,  
And all nature seeks repose;  
And each sweetly breathing flower,  
Doth its tinted petals close.

But no more shall dewy morning,  
With its beams of purple hue,  
All thy native charms adorning  
Catch an answering smile from you.

Nor where the sun's descending,  
At the balmy hour of eve,  
Wilt thou fondly towards him bending,  
His last golden light receive.

But tho' thou canst not flourish  
Or bloom in pride again,  
I will not let thee perish  
And wither where thou'st lain.

Then thus, sweet rose, I leave thee  
Beneath thy parent tree,  
Its shade will fond receive thee,  
Its tears will fall on thee.

And when the smiling bowers,  
Now breathing fragrance round,  
Shall lose their sunny flowers,  
Whose leaves shall strew the ground.

That stem from which they tore thee,  
Tho' now so full of bloom,  
Will shed its flowrets o'er thee,  
To form thy simple tomb.

JULIAN.

#### DUBLIN:

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